Loyola
OF MONTREAL

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CENTENNIAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RATED A TOSS-UP

K.C. Jones brings his power packed Brandeis Judges to Montreal Monday seeking a second Centennial Basketball Tournament Championship.

The Judges are early favorites to repeat as champions of Canada's top collegiate holiday basketball tournament at Loyola College Monday and Tuesday. Four teams are entered in Loyola's fourth edition of the popular court competition. Joining Brandeis are Norwich University of Northfield Vermont, the McGill Redmen and the host Loyola Warriors.

The Judges who ended Plattsburgh's two year reign as champions have lost only two starters from the team that romped to the title last year. Leading the Brandeis cagers will be outstanding forward Bob Nayer. Nayer, a 6'4" forward was the only member of the winning side to be selected to the tournament all-star team as he paced the Judges in scoring and gave them very good strength on the boards.

Nayer is joined by seven returning lettermen on the Waltham Massachusetts club. Brandeis Coach K.C. Jones, former Boston Celtic great thinks that this edition of the club will have an even better year despite the loss of 6'11" center Tom Haggarty and guard Steve Katzman. Taking up the strain at the pivot sport will be Mike Shea

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while Mark Matthews will aid returning starter Kevin Anderson in bringing the ball up court. Jones will go to veterans Bruce Singal, 6'4" and Tom August a tough 6'1" 'big little man' on the forward line to help the deft shooting Nayer.

Last year the Judges compiled a 13-9 mark but with more depth and added speed from a fine bunch of juniors and freshmen Jones is looking forward to a better season.

Norwich is making their first appearance in the Tournament. The Vermont military college hasn't got the height that Brandeis has but they have speed to spare.

The cadets are in top physical shape and they can run another club into the court with their fast-breaking style of play. Although the season is young Norwich has shown signs of being a contender.

Not known as a pressure club, Norwich relies on a tight man to man defense based on guards Jaye Trapasso and Richard Weeks. Up front they have captain Geffrey Plunket and 6'3" centre and Ray Schwartz a 6" forward to carry the load and court surprise Brandeis.

But the tallest club in the Tournament is McGill. The Redmen have a forward line that is centered by 6'5" Bob Beaupré while 6'2" Geff Mace and 6'3" Bill Holt are the forwards. Sharp shooting Pierre Brodeur, the team's ball handler is one of the starting guards while Chad Gaffield or Jerry Traeger will share the other guard position. Basically a controlled offense type of club the Redmen like to work the ball into either Beaupré or Holt while Brodeur or Gaffield can be deadly going over

the top. In their only real test of the young cage season the Redmen were upset by Carleton Ravens and now the Tom Mooney coached McGillians are 3-1.

While not blessed with any big men the home standing Loyola Warriors have turned to speed and a tenacious pressure defense to run up the longest winning streak in the country in league play, 32 straight victories in over three years.

Earl Lewis who is only 6'3" will be the best rebounder in the Tournament, Jack Contos and Gene Lawrence staff the front line with Jim Ivy and Tom Profenno in the back court. The Warriors are able to run and run all night long and on defense they force their opponents into careless mistakes and ball turnovers with their quick pressing defense.

In the opening game of the tournament at 6:30 p.m. Brandeis draws Norwich and Loyola and McGill meet at 8:30 in a rematch by popular demand. Last year Loyola defeated McGill 93-92 in one of the most thrilling college games played anywhere last year. Tuesday night the two winners meet for the Labatt Trophy at 8:30 while the losers get together for a consolation match at 6:30.